

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 17, line 27 as follows:

The retrieval system of the present invention may be implemented by any hardware, ~~software~~ or a combination of hardware and software having the above described functions. The hardware may be a general purpose computer or a part of a general purpose computer. The software code, either in its entirety or a part thereof, may be stored in a computer readable memory. Further, ~~a computer data signal representing the software code which may be embedded in a carrier wave may be transmitted via a communication network.~~ Such a computer readable memory is ~~and a computer data signal~~ are also within the scope of the present invention, as well as the hardware, software and the combination thereof.